

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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THE CITY OF KAUNASPopulation

1. About ten percent of the inhabitants of Kaunas were Jews, although even more Jews were to be found in Vilnius. The Jews in Vilnius included those who were formerly in the Vilnius ghetto, those who had been hiding in Vilnius during the war, and, the largest group, those who moved to Vilnius from other parts of the USSR after the war.   a great number of the Jews who moved to Vilnius had come from Tashkent (N 41-20, E 69-18), Uzbek SSR. Many of the Jews in Kaunas were managers of food stores on Vilnius Street and on Stalin Boulevard, formerly Laiaves Avenue. Soviet women living in Kaunas were always well dressed. On Ragines Street, opposite the Pasaka movie theater, there were two dressmakers who were always kept busy making clothes for Soviet women. Germans from Kaliningrad who were living in Kaunas were not allowed to move to Vilnius.

Construction and Housing

2. There was very little new construction in Kaunas after the war. A large building was being constructed in May 1951 opposite the Kaunas airfield;   it would be the site of a technical school (*amatu mokykla*). On Red Army Boulevard, formerly known as the ~~Emerge~~ Highway, between Kapiniu Street and Kipro Petrausko Street, a large building was under construction in May 1951;   it was to be a factory. On Mickeviciaus Street, a new block of apartments had been built for activists and Stakhanovites.
3. It was very difficult to obtain a room or an apartment in Kaunas. A special order was necessary. Persons of Soviet nationality were given preference in

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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the issuance of these orders and, accordingly, were able to obtain apartments more easily. Individuals were allowed to occupy eight square meters of space as lodgings.

#### Changes in Street and Building Names

4. The following postwar changes were made in Kaunas street names:

<u>Old name</u>	<u>New name</u>
Laisves Avenue	Stalin Boulevard
Vytauto Boulevard	Lenin Boulevard
Ukmerge Highway and Savanoriu Boulevard	Red Army Boulevard
Luksio Street	Pozelos Street
Prezidento Street	Senamiescio Street
Juozapaviciaus Boulevard	Vinco Kapsuko Boulevard
Vasario 16 Street	Liepos Street <sup>1</sup>
Ulado Putvinskio Street	Salomejos Neries Street

Hotel Versalis was renamed Hotel Gintaras. The House of the New Lithuanians (Neolituanu Rumai) on Parados Street became the House of the Pioneers (Pionieriu Rumai).<sup>1</sup> The President's House in Kaunas was taken over by the MVD Investigation Office.

#### Industry

5. There were two industrial combines in Kaunas. The first was named for Lenin and included the tile factory in the Vilijampole Section of Kaunas and the factory for the repair of furniture. The second combine was named for Stalin and included the Parama food processing plant and the Univermag. The Univermag was located opposite Tulpe Cafe, formerly Konradas Cafe, on Stalin Boulevard, between the Romuva movie theater and Daukanto Street. [redacted] two candy factories in Lithuania, the Ramune factory in Sanciai, a suburb of Kaunas, and the Ruta factory in Siauliai (N 55-55, E 23-18).

#### Salaries and Deductions

6. A worker who pressed tiles in the Vilijampole tile factory received 25 kopeks per tile. At this rate, an experienced worker could earn more than 1,000 rubles a month. Workers who carried tiles also worked on a piecework basis, earning 18 rubles for carrying 600 tiles in one day; an experienced worker could carry 1,000 tiles a day. By working very hard, a tile carrier could net 400 to 500 rubles per month after deductions. The following deductions were made from the salaries of factory workers: one percent for trade-union dues, one percent for bachelor's tax, and twenty rubles for the government loan (zaym).
7. A translator on the Russian-language newspaper, Nemuno Upeivis (Nemunas Riverman), published twice a month in Kaunas by the Ministry of the River Fleet, received 1,000 rubles per translation. A worker in the customs artel (sic, mutu arteleje) earned 600 rubles a month. Wages were lower in the country than in the city. An assistant teacher in the country earned only 200 rubles per month.

#### Market Conditions

8. The following prices prevailed in Kaunas as of May 1951:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>
Sugar, lump	kg	11.30
Sugar, granulated	kg	10
Coffee, good quality	kg	75
Coffee, third quality	kg	36
Coffee, mixed with barley and oats	kg	25
Potatoes, in summer	kg	0.90
Potatoes, in winter	kg	1.20
Butter, in government shop	kg	32

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Butter, on market in winter	kg	40
Butter, on market in summer	kg	28-30
Eggs	each	0.75-1.10
Bread, dark	kg	1.80
Bread, white	kg	2.50-2.80
Barley	kg	3.50-3.80
Macaroni	kg	8-10
Cheese, "Noja"	piece (smotelis)	1.50
Milk, in government shop in summer	liter	2.50
Milk, in government shop in winter	liter	3.50
Milk, on market in summer	liter	2
Milk, on market in winter	liter	3-4
Flour, in government shop, cheapest	kg	3
Flour, sifted	kg	9
Sausage, cheapest quality	kg	19
Sausage, good quality	kg	up to 43
Ham, smoked	kg	42
Pork, ground	kg	22
Beef, ground	kg	12
Beef suet	kg	28
Pig, young	one	150
Cow	one	up to 2,000
Chicken, not fattened	one	28-30
Candy, with jam, cheapest	kg	12
Candy, chocolate	kg	30-40
Cookies, chocolate	kg	40
Cookies, plain	kg	11-21

- 25X1 9. Sugar could be purchased in five-kilogram quantities. There was a scarcity of sugar in Kaunas before holidays. Butter was in short supply, and customers lined up in the morning before shops where butter was sold. The butter sold in government shops was of better quality than that sold on the market. The latter was not always pure butter. The bread supply in Kaunas was adequate. The only bread shortage occurred in spring 1951, when flood waters inundated parts of Kaunas, especially Kestucio Street and Prieplaukos Street. The Parama bakery on Prieplaukos Street was inundated, causing a bread shortage. Later, the Parama bakery was moved into the center of Kaunas. Macaroni was difficult to obtain. Meat shortages occurred before Easter and Whitsunday.

10. As of May 1951, prices in the Kaunas Univermag included the following:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (in rubles)</u>
Silk dress	one	253
Stockings, "caprone"	pair	36-41
Stockings, cotton	pair	9-12
Nightgown, silk	one	36-100
Cotton material	meter	8-24
Silk material	meter	73
Woolen material, for women's clothing	meter	30-80
Coating material, for women	meter	30-80
Woman's coat, cheapest quality	one	400
Leather coat (Fohlenpelz)	one	2,000
Man's suit, cheapest quality	one	106
Trousers, woolen	pair	180
Work shoes, for men	pair	115
Sport shoes, for women	pair	90-150
Sport shoes, for women, good quality	pair	250-300
Shoes, made to order	pair	400-600

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Electricity

11. The supply of electricity in Kaunas was not steady. Sometimes whole days passed with no electrical current being available. This was especially true on Ragines Street, where there was seldom any electricity during the day or after 2200 hours. Light bulbs on sale in Kaunas were of Osram manufacture.

Transportation

12. The rebuilding of the Aleksotas bridge in Kaunas was completed in 1949 on the anniversary of the October Revolution.<sup>2</sup> Prior to this, a ferryboat crossed the river from a point near Veiveriu Street. The fare was 20 kopeks.
13. The bus fare from Kaunas to Ukmerge (N 55-13, E 24-46), a distance of sixty kilometers, was twenty-five rubles.

Entertainment

14. There was no opera company in Kaunas. However, in summer the Vilnius opera company came to Kaunas. Its repertoire included Traviata and Madame Butterfly. [redacted] a performance of the ballet, Don Quixote, starring Sobolevskaitė (fnu), Ruzgaite (fnu), and a third person whose first name was Vytautas [redacted]
15. A program of national folk dancing was presented on 2 January 1951 and on 8 March 1951, International Women's Day, at the Viliampole Tile Factory's clubhouse, located at 15 Jonavos Street in Kaunas. National costumes were presented to the worker-dancers by the trade union. The kavalis and other Lithuanian and Estonian national dances were performed.
16. The tile factory also had a choir. The choir sang Soviet songs, including Tris Dienas, Tris Naktis (Three Days, Three Nights) and Vejeli Pusk (Blow, Little Wind). Other Soviet songs, which were sung only on Soviet holidays, were Mes Placiajame Pasaulyje (We Are Going Forward in the World); Mes Mateme Veliava, Ksip Vede (We Followed the Flag Which Led Us); and the construction workers' song, Mars Talkininkai (March of the Collective Workers). In 1950 the Lithuanian anthem, Lietuva Tėvyne Mūsų (Lithuania, Our Fatherland) was replaced by another song, Mylek, Lietuvi, Tą Brangią Žemę, Kurioj Nuo Amžių Tėvai Gyveno (Lithuanians, Cherish Your Beloved Country Where Your Fathers Have Lived for Ages). Most Lithuanians sang only Leiskit i Tėvyne (Let Me Enter the Fatherland) and other familiar Lithuanian songs, including Kada Noriu Verkiu (When I Wish, I Weep) and Marija, Marija.

Communist Party

17. [redacted] of the forty-three workers in the tile factory at Viliampole, only one worker was a member of the Communist Party and three workers were Komsomol members. [redacted] in another factory [redacted] the percentage of Party members was about the same as in the tile factory. The percentage of Komsomol members among the workers in the Liepsna Match Factory in Kaunas was higher than in most places.
18. As of May 1951 no new members were being accepted into the Communist Party in Kaunas. Party members in Kaunas were few in number and were very dissatisfied. They complained about their low wages, saying that if they bought clothing they had no money left to buy food. Efforts were being made to recruit more Komsomol members. [redacted] a student [redacted] was forced to join the Komsomol before he was allowed to study medicine at the university in Kaunas.

Miscellaneous

19. A camp for German prisoners-of-war was located at Petrasiunai, a suburb of Kaunas. The camp was closely guarded.
20. A Lithuanian who returned to the Lithuanian SSR [redacted] had to pay 2,000 rubles in customs duties to take his furniture into the USSR.

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RELIGION IN THE LITHUANIAN SSR

21. Persons who practiced religion were not officially suppressed in the Lithuanian SSR, and the religious zeal of the Lithuanians was stronger than ever. However, many churches had been closed. In Kaunas, Soviet aviators were billeted in the archbishop's home, the entrance to which was always guarded. The Jesuit church in Kaunas had been closed and was being used as a granary. A common lodging place (bendrabitis) and a special technical school (speciali amatu mokykla) had been set up in the Jesuit monastery in Kaunas. The Saritku Church of the Marian Fathers in Kaunas had been closed. Construction work on the Church of the Resurrection in Kaunas was never completed. The churchyard was full of wrecked automobiles and scrap metal. [redacted] the church in Ukmerge (N 55-14, E 24-47) had been closed.
22. The garrison church (igulos baznycia) in Kaunas was still open, as was the Zaliakalnis church on Aukstaiciu Street. [redacted] two priests were attached to the latter church. [redacted] persons praying outside the Zaliakalnis church; it was too small to accommodate all who wanted to attend. The Ausros Vartai shrine in Vilnius had not been removed and many believers knelt in the street before it.
23. [redacted] the churches in Lithuania had to pay very high taxes. As a result, persons who attended church contributed a great deal of money during the services. [redacted] people putting from one to ten rubles into the collection tray on an Easter Sunday. Supplies for the church had to be purchased with the priest's own money.
24. Priests were imprisoned if their sermons were ambiguous. [redacted] many priests were in hiding in Lithuania and that many of them had been deported. They were never told the reason why they were being deported. The printing of prayer books was prohibited, and it was impossible to purchase them in Kaunas. Sometimes it was possible to purchase religious medals and rosaries from old women at the entrance to the Kaunas Basilica. After 1950 it was impossible to purchase such items in local shops.
25. Lithuanians were forced to work on church holidays, though most of them left work during the day to visit church. One Christmas Komsomol members visited the factories to see if anyone was missing from work. After the check had been made, most of the workers went home. [redacted] the kolkhozniki did not work on the kolkhozy on church holidays.
26. Propaganda against the Vatican was carried on in the movies, theater, press, and on the radio. It was stated that the Vatican was using religion as a means of exploiting Catholics. In articles and cartoons, the Vatican was represented as being a center of spies.

KOLKHOZY IN THE LITHUANIAN SSR

27. [redacted] in 1950 there were still some farmers in the Sirvintai Rayon who had not yet joined kolkhozy. It was rumored in the market that private farmers had to pay a tax of 50,000 rubles for sixty hectares of land. Moreover, such farmers faced almost certain deportation.
28. Nemunas Kolkhoz was located in the village of Seredzius (N 55-05, E 22-25) and consisted of what were formerly two separate kolkhozy, Nemunas Kolkhoz and Ausra Kolkhoz. The administrator of the combined kolkhoz was a Lithuanian woman who formerly lived in another part of the USSR. [redacted] the administrator was afraid to live at the kolkhoz center and went to a small neighboring town each night. [redacted] the administrator say, "I could force the people to work, but they would kill me later."

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29. It was very difficult to force the kolkhozniki to work. When the kolkhozniki failed to appear for work, the brigadiers did not know what to do, since they were well aware that zealous brigadiers were carried off by the partisans. Because the kolkhozniki refused to work, the 1950 beet and potato harvest on Nemunas Kolkhoz was not collected until November. As a result, sixteen workers from various factories, including workers from the tile factory in Vilijampole, were brought to Nemunas Kolkhoz to harvest these products. The wet beets were stored in such a way that it was evident that they would rot in a short time. The brigadier indicated that he did not care if they rotted, so long as the harvesting was completed quickly. The brigadier gave orders to the workers in the morning and then disappeared for the rest of the day. The workers were given their meals on the kolkhoz, and most of the time they were working with their feet in deep mud and water. They were even forced to work on All Saints' Day. This made the local inhabitants angry, and they told the workers that they should be ashamed to work on a holiday. On some occasions, soldiers were called in during the harvest; on other occasions, istrebiteli were used to force the kolkhozniki to work.

#### PARTISAN ACTIVITIES IN THE LITHUANIAN SSR

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30. [ ] seven partisans in Ukmerge Rayon in fall 1949. The partisans had come to a farm in search of food. Five partisans entered the farmhouse, while two others, equipped with telescopes, remained outside. Two of the partisans in the house were Germans. The Lithuanian partisans in the group were wearing Lithuanian Army uniforms with the yellow infantry piping and the Lithuanian insignia (vytis).
31. In 1950 there was much talk of partisan activities in the rayons of Ziezmariai and Kaisiadorys. There was also word in 1950 of a partisan bunker which had been blown up in an action near Siauliai. In May 1950 [ ] a brigadier, his wife, and his brother were killed on a kolkhoz in Grozeciai, four kilometers from Ukmerge. The murders reportedly were committed by partisans. On another occasion, in Grozeciai, partisans warned the administrator of a kolkhoz; when the warning was not heeded, the partisans burned down a kolkhoz shed. [ ] in winter 1950 partisans in the Ukmerge Rayon attacked a library and burned Communist books and pictures of Lenin and Stalin.
32. Partisans sometimes visited families in Kaunas. One partisan traveled seventeen kilometers to Kaunas to listen to radio broadcasts. Another partisan came to Kaunas to have a friend there purchase a medicine cabinet which was needed in the bunker. [ ] a village woman [ ] regularly baked bread for the partisans. In winter 1950, in Ukmerge Rayon, the administrator of a kolkhoz and his daughter were arrested for supporting the partisans. The daughter had given the partisans some butter from the dairy. The Communists called her a "sweetheart of bandits." Local inhabitants informed the partisans about the activities and living quarters of Communist officials and soldiers. [ ] the Soviets had paid agents who reported on the movements of the local inhabitants.

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#### THE LIFE OF DEPORTEES IN SIBERIA

33. Persons who had been deported to Siberia were allowed to correspond with friends and relatives in the Lithuanian SSR, and packages could be sent to deportees in Siberia. [ ] information on life in Siberia in a letter received from a deportee:

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A new post office was established in Taliyana (not located) shortly after January 1951. Inhabitants of Shirokopad (not located) usually received their mail at the post office in Ivanovo, twelve kilometers from Shirokopad. However, after the new post office was set up, packages for Shirokopad inhabitants were sometimes sent to Taliyana, thirty kilometers away. On other occasions, packages came directly to the Ivanovo post office and were delivered to Shirokopad.<sup>3</sup>

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34. The bread supply in Siberia consisted of heavy, coarse bread. Siberian inhabitants appreciated receiving packages which contained flour, since this enabled them to bake lighter bread which could be eaten by persons who were old and sick. Deportees were allowed to observe Christmas in Siberia by having Christmas trees in their homes. There was a shortage of textbooks in the schools of Siberia. There were three Lithuanian women teaching school in Taliyana and one Lithuanian woman teaching in Shirokopad. Machinery was used in cutting timber in the Siberian forests. Lithuanian deportees had good living conditions in Taliyana. Most of them were employed as woodcutters, or in the loading and unloading of timber. In winter they were well paid for this work. They worked according to norms and received double pay for fulfilling the norm 200 percent. The work was difficult, and a person had to be healthy to be able to do it. Deported members of the intelligentsia also did forestry work in Siberia. The women got easier work to do: burning branches in the woods, stripping the bark from trees, repairing roads, etc. Woodcutters, loaders, and unloaders received 1,000 to 2,500 rubles per month. Other workers did not receive this much. Teachers' working conditions were not bad. Quarters, electricity, and fuel were provided for them. Their wages were computed on the basis of the number of hours they taught. Living conditions were more difficult in Taliyana than in Shirokopad. It was difficult to buy food in Taliyana because the transportation facilities were so poor.

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Comment: [redacted] 16 Vasario Street is now  
Liepos 21 Street and [redacted] Parados Street is now Kipro Petrausko Street.

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Comment: [redacted] the bridge from Kaunas  
proper to Aleksotas, which at first was constructed of wood, had been  
converted to steel. It is probable that the press report [redacted]  
[redacted] referred to the reopening of the Aleksotas bridge  
and not to the Panemune bridge, though there seems to be some discrepancy  
as to the actual month in 1949 when the reopening took place.

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Comment. Previous reports state that the deportees went to the  
Omsk and Tomsk regions. There are villages near Tomsk with names similar  
to these.

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